

Home Visit Notes

Lesson: Spiders—Our Friends

Objectives:

- Encourage reading in the home and model reading skills.
- Empower the student with knowledge.
- Increase the confidence level of the student in the classroom and as a parent.
- Help students see themselves as capable teachers of their children.
- Foster fun learning interaction between parent and child.
- Reinforce knowledge learned in the classroom by following up in the home.
- Provide and encourage healthy snacks.

Activities:

1. Make a healthy spider snack using pretzels, peanut butter, and raisins. Enjoy!
2. Read an age appropriate spider story. Some suggestions are "Miss Spider's Tea Party", "The Magic School Bus Spins a Web", or "The Very Busy Spider". Create a Spider & Web to enhance the story.
3. Make a spider puppet using a black glove. Hand puppets are wonderful tools for enacting the stories in children's books. They can be made by the children from paper bags, socks, or in this case, gloves. They encourage children to speak, to express their feelings, and to interact with the characters. These puppets can be used again and again with different books, and are beloved by the children. Children and teachers can be imaginative in setting up puppet stages, using classroom furniture, blocks, corrugated cardboard cartons, or fabric. Using the spider puppet act out the song "The Itsy Bitsy Spider".
4. Have the children color the "Little Miss Muffet finger puppets and act out the poem. Have the children answer the following questions:
 - * What makes you feel afraid?
 - * Would you run from a spider?
 - * What would happen if Miss Muffet did not run away?
 - * Imagine another animal came to visit Miss Muffet. Describe the animal and what she would do.
5. Complete the spider maze using crayons or the new spider web pencil that was presented to the child.

6. Provide a new avenue of self-expression through art. Make a craft of spider pops.
7. Make a chenille stem spider.
8. Create a Styrofoam spider and web.
9. Encourage reading. Have the family go to the library and find more spider books or books by the same authors. Create a punch card that they can have punched each time they visit the library and receive a prize when it is full.
10. Read "Jen's Web" with the child and then have him/her color the pages of the book.
11. Review the spider bite safety sheet.
12. Encourage reading by making a spider bookmark. *This activity is also in the GED instruction packet to be made in class.*
13. Have the child complete the spider word search.
14. Give each child a spider certificate when finished with all the activities.
15. Two spider books are included in this kit. Also, a theme related book list is provided so that reading can continue after the unit is finished. The list is divided by age groups. Happy Reading!

Activity #1

Spider Pretzels

Try this healthy snack from FamilyFun Magazine.

It's easy to make these arachnid treats and they look positively lifelike as they crawl all over the supper table.

Ingredients per spider:

- 2 round crackers (like Ritz crackers)
- Knife
- 2 tsp smooth peanut butter
- 8 small pretzel sticks
- 2 raisins

Directions:

1. Spread the peanut butter on one cracker and top it with the other cracker to make a "cracker sandwich".
2. Insert 8 pretzel "legs" into the filling.
3. With a dab of peanut butter, set 2 raisin eyes on top.

Activity #2

"The Very Busy Spider"

SPIDER & WEB

For this activity you will need:

- " *The Very Busy Spider*" by Eric Carle
- Paper plate
- Construction paper
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- Glue
- Markers (for younger alternative)

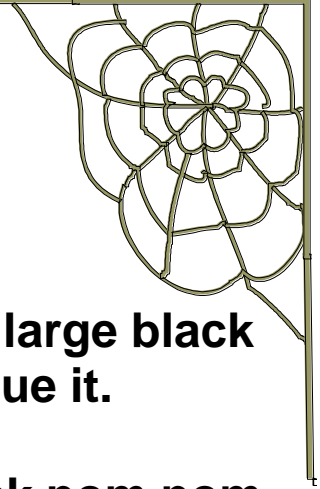
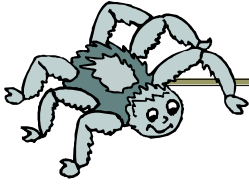
Start with a discussion about spiders. Ask the children the following questions: How many legs do spiders have? What do they live in? How is a web made? What is a web made of? What does it feel like? What does a spider eat? What does a spider do to an insect after he/she catches it? Where do you find spider webs?

Read the book "*The Very Busy Spider*". As you go through the book, point out what direction the spider goes in while making her web. Encourage participation by having the children make the noise each animal makes. Also have them finish off the repetitive sentence "The spider was very busy spinning her web" along with you.

Pass out one paper plate with 12 hole punches around the perimeter of the plate (similar to a clock) Tape a long piece of yarn to the back of the plate and tape the other end of the yarn to prevent fraying. Have the child "sew" a web by threading the yarn through the hole punches. (*If the child is too young for this activity he/she can use a marker to draw a spider web on the plate.*)

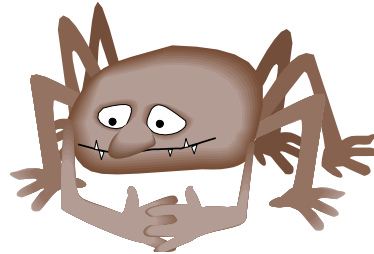
Cut out about a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle from construction paper along with four $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch strips cut along the width of the construction paper. Cut the four strips in half and glue the strips across the bottom side to look like legs. Glue hole punches on the top side for eyes. Using the hole punch, make one hole through the rim of the paper plate and another through the backside of the spider. Attach the spider to the web with a 18" length of yarn making one big loop. Knot the yarn so that it doesn't come back through the hole. The spider will dangle and when one of the strings is pulled down from the web end, the spider will "crawl" up to his web.

Activity #3 (Part 1 of 2)



ITSY BITSY SPIDER PUPPET

1. Take a black stretchy glove and place a large black pom pom in the middle of the glove and glue it.
2. Place two small google eyes on the black pom pom and glue them.



This activity is courtesy of the St. Clair ROE.

Activity #3 (Part 2 of 2)



Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider

Crawled up the water spout

Down came the rain

And washed the spider out

Out came the sun

And dried up all the rain

And the itsy bitsy spider

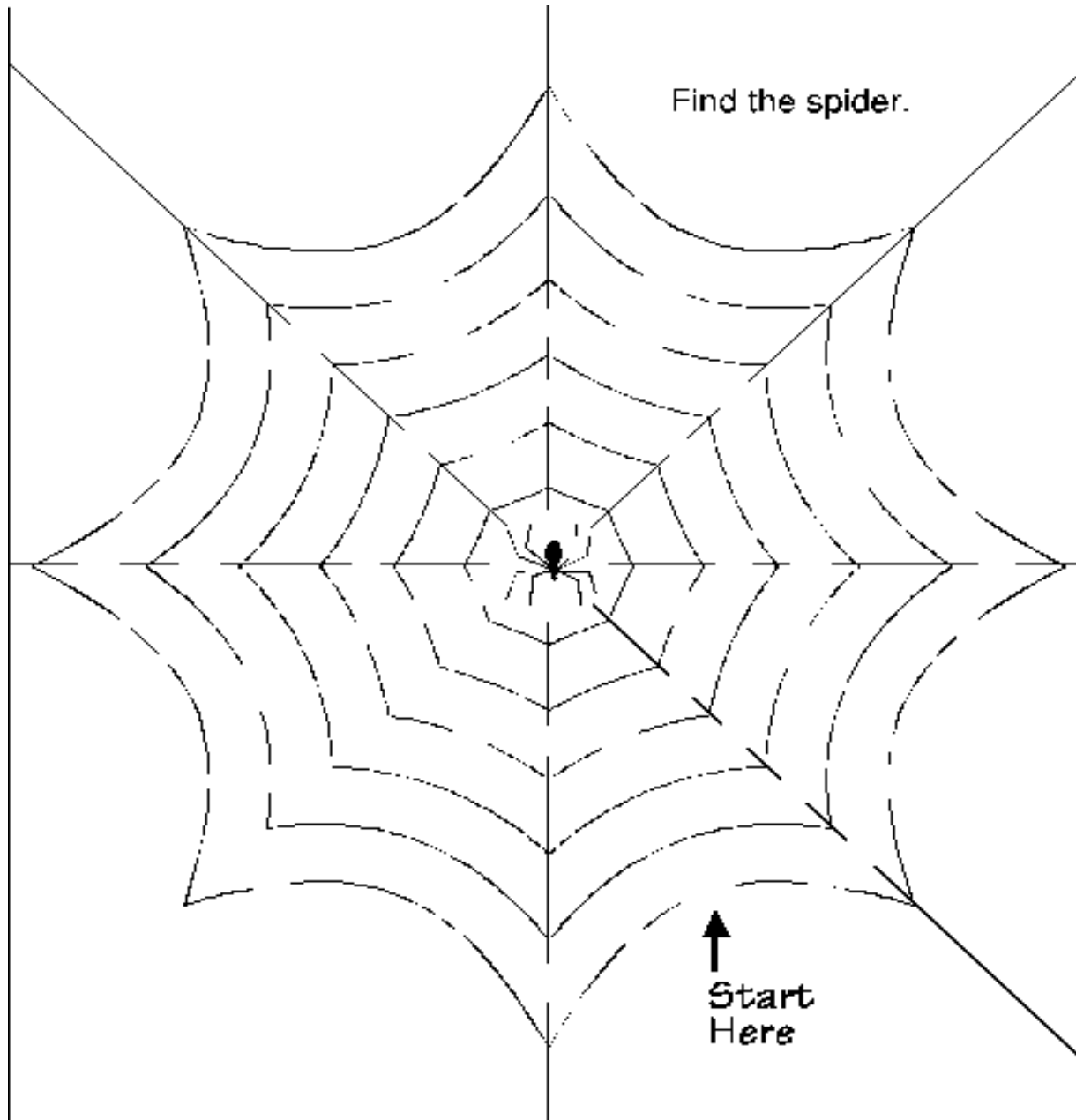
Crawled up the spout again.



Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider,
who sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

Activity #5

Find the Spider



Activity #6

SPIDER POPS

Have children make these leggy lollipops as an activity and a take-home treat.



Materials:

- 2 black chenille stems cut in half
- Lollipop
- Google eyes
- Glue

Directions:

1. Holding all four pipe cleaners, center them at the base of the pop and wrap them around the stick once so there are four legs on each side.
2. Bend the legs.
3. Glue on google eyes.

Originally published in [FamilyFun magazine](#)

Activity #7

CHENILLE STEM SPIDERS

Materials:

- Chenille stems
- Four-hole buttons
- Google eyes
- Synthetic spider web
- Double-sided tape



Directions:

Step 1:

Bend a pipe cleaner into a V shape. Push the base of the V up through one of the buttonholes until it protrudes 1/2 inch. Then, bend the 1/2-inch length over the top of the button. Use the same method to thread the three other pipe cleaners through the remaining buttonholes.

Step 2:

Next, shape the legs (there should be eight, of course!) by bending the pipe cleaner ends first 1 inch from the button and then again 1/4 inch from the tips. Stick the googly eyes onto the button between the front legs.

Step 3:

To create a web, the easiest option is to use a synthetic stretching spider web (sold at most novelty shops for under \$2). If you can't find one, use a thin sheet of cotton batting. Stretch the web across a doorway, using pieces of double-sided tape to anchor the sides to the door frame. Then, set your spiders in the web wherever you like--their legs will stick easily to the fibers.

Originally published in FamilyFun magazine.

Activity #8 STYROFOAM SPIDERS AND WEB

Infest nooks and crannies with these easy-to-make creepy crawlies.

Materials:

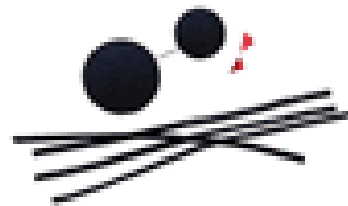
- Two sizes of Styrofoam balls
- Black paint and brushes
- Toothpicks
- Black chenille stems
- Paper scraps
- Thick gray yarn
- Tape or tacks



Directions:

Step 1:

Paint the Styrofoam balls black and let them dry. Attach the legs to the body (larger ball) with toothpicks.



(smaller ball)

Step 2:

Insert the pipe cleaner legs into the body and bend them in half to create the knee joints. Bend the tips to create the feet.

Step 3:

Give the spider a frightening face by gluing on two paper triangle eyes.

Step 4:

To make the web, run a length of yarn across the top of a door frame and tape or tack in place. Wet (but don't soak) a dozen or so 6-foot-long strands of yarn and gently pull each strand apart to create a cobweb effect. Drape them over the yarn on the door frame.

Step 5:

Suspend a few spiders on the web by twisting the pipe cleaner legs around the yarn. For maximum chills, invite guests to walk through the doorway, brushing against the wet web as they walk.

Originally published in FamilyFun magazine.

Activity # 11

BUG and SPIDER BITES

NOTE: If the person is having a severe reaction, s/he should be transported (with the bug, if available) to the hospital emergency room immediately.

- Are you having trouble breathing?
- Were you bitten by a poisonous spider?
- Is the person fainting or having severe dizziness?

- If **yes** to any of the above, the patient should be examined by a physician promptly.
- If **no**, then follow the instructions below

ACTIVITIES: Wash the area of the bite with soap and water. Apply a cold compress if there is swelling or itching. Keep the area clean.

MEDICATIONS:

- **Aspirin** or **Motrin** or **Tylenol** will help pain. **Calamine Lotion** or **topical steroid cream** will relieve itching. Oral **Benadryl** will help swelling and itching. *Follow directions on the package.*
- It has been reported that over-the-counter products such as **ReJuveness**, **Mederma**, or **SyCream** aid in soothing the pain, irritation, burning, and discoloration associated with bites.

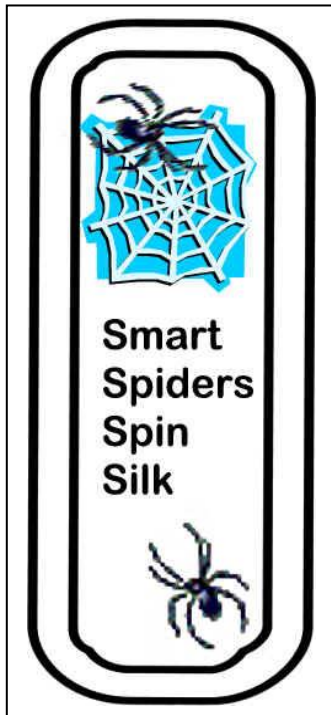
DIET: You may eat anything you desire.

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. You have trouble breathing or passing out.
2. There is no improvement within 3 days.
3. Any infection develops.
4. A peculiar rash appears.
5. The area(s) does not appear to be healing properly.

Activity # 12

Spider Book Marks



1. Laminate the printed book mark or cover with clear contact paper.
2. Cut out the laminated book mark.
3. Use a hole punch to punch a single hole in the middle of the book mark approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top.
4. Double over a piece of yarn about 6 inches in length and pull it through the hole.
5. Loop the two loose ends of yarn through the doubled end of the yarn and pull it tight against the book mark.
6. Tie a spider ring on the two loose ends of the yarn.
7. Clip off extra yarn left over after tying the spider ring.

Activity # 15 (Page 1 of 2)

Family Education Books about Spiders

Preschool

<u>The Eensy-Weensy Spider</u>	Adapted by Mary Ann Hoberman
<u>Feely Bugs</u>	David A. Carter
<u>Little Miss Spider</u>	David Kirk
<u>Miss Spider's Tea Party: ABC</u>	David Kirk
<u>Miss Spider's Tea Party: The Counting Book</u>	David Kirk
<u>Silly Spider!</u>	Eric Carle
<u>Spectacular Spiders</u>	Linda Glaser
<u>Spider on the Floor</u>	Raffi
<u>Very Busy Spider</u>	Eric Carle

Ages 4-10

<u>Amazing Spiders</u>	Alexandra Parsons
<u>Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti</u>	Gerald McDermott
<u>Ananse the Spider: Why Spiders Stay On the Ceiling</u>	Stanley Harold Collins, Stanley H. Collins
<u>Are You a Spider?</u>	Judy Allen
<u>Be Nice to Spiders</u>	Margaret Bloy Graham
<u>Charlotte's Web: Special Read-Along Edition</u>	E.B. White
<u>Dream Weaver</u>	Jonathan London

Activity # 15 (Page 2 of 2)

I Didn't Know that Spiders have Fangs &
other amazing facts about Arachnids

Claire Llewellyn, Mike Taylor

The Lady and the Spider

Faith McNulty, Bob Marshall

The Magic School Bus Spins a Web

Goanna Cole, Tracey West

Mighty Spiders! (Hello Reader!)

Fay Robinson

Miss Spider's Tea Party

David Kirk

Simon and Schuster Children's Guide
to Insects and Spiders

Jinny Johnson, Jimmy Johnson

Spider Kane and the Mystery at Jumbo
Nightcrawler's

Mary Pope Osborne

Spiders

Gail Gibbons

Spider's Lunch: All about Garden Spiders

Beverly Collins

Spiders Spin Webs

Yvonne Winer

Activity #13



Spiders



B C X L U P N V I I W G P C B
R A S A Z N O A V L N Z A U W
O M Y M R S R E D I P S I L A
W O D I W K C A L B G N A F F
N U E E H K D R E G Y W N F U
R F G F S X E W E A G E A L P
E L V N P D M Z B I F D S A N
C A K L I O N D G Y Z S G H I
L G Y P N N O T N M S H I C A
U E S E N M O H I Q O K U Q U
S I V T E O Y O T P B B V O T
E E G N R O F R L U P D Q K S
W W P R E Y Q A O L D O V W C
O R Y R T G J X M U A W F Y I
U E J I I E E L L U C B L J Y

Abdomen	Ballooning	Black Widow	Brown Recluse	Camouflage
Egg sac	Fang	Molting	Prey	Spiderling
Spiders	Spinneret	Thorax	Venom	Web

	<i>Spider Theme Unit Certificate</i>	
	<i>Awarded to</i>	

	<i>on</i>	

	<i>for successfully completing the Spider Theme Unit</i>	
	<i>Date</i> _____	
		

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